CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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Pix Panned Plenty Over CBC

Public Financing For Odeon Ltd.

The first public financing undertaken by the J. Arthur Rank interests in Canada was announced recently. Fry & Company and Nesbitt Thompson & Company have underwritten and will offer publicly an issue of $2,500,000 Odeon Limited first mortgage

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Roly Young, 45, Passes Suddenly

Canada's best known motion picture critic, Roly Young of the Toronto Globe & Mail, passed away in St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, on December 24th at the age of 45. Eleven hours earlier he had been stricken in the lobby of the King Edward Hotel and

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Films Favorite Subject On Government Network

The prolonged panning of imported motion pictures over the national network and local outlets of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has caused considerable private talk in the Dominion film and theatre industry. In addition to regular film reviewers the CBC's interest in films has been demonstrated by discussion of them as part of other programs.

So much criticism has emanated from the government radio agency of late that industry folk are wondering whether there exists a tacit policy of putting pictures in a poor light. Some

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Amusement Tax For Bars With Video

Liquor lounges in Pennsylvania which show television must pay the state amusement tax. The State Liquor Control Board made this ruling and it was upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The Board then notified lounge and tap room operators that payment of the amusement tax would be a prerequisite for the renewal of licenses. Even coin-operated sets would not exempt the premises.

Such wet provinces as Quebec and Ontario have been study'ng television from a movie regulations' standpoint.

Signs RKO Contract

Nicholas Ray has signed an RKO contract as director.

Three Theatres Added To Total

Recent theatre building news concerned Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta. In Ontario two new houses made their debut, an opening date was set for another and construction was started on a fourth. Quebec had one new theatre opening.

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'Bride Of Vengeance'

"Bride of Vengeance" is the release title for Paramount's "A Mask for Lucretia."

'The Hasty Heart'

Shooting has started in England on Warners' "The Hasty Heart."

Variety Praised For Guidance Project

The rough weather and the importance of the occasion will cause the cornerstone-laying ceremonies for Variety Village to be unforgotten by the barkers and guests who were present. Everything came off excellently and George Drew, former Premier of Ontario and recent victor in Carleton, laid the cornerstone with such accuracy that it caused comment from the contractor.

"I'm glad that there will actually be a school in which children will learn to make their way. This could be the beginning of a pattern of what can be done for

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To Enlarge Theatre

The 500-seat Cartier Theatre in Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, will be enlarged to seat 1,006 at a cost of $50,000.

Al Ritchie Passes, Was Veteran Mgr.

Allan G. Ritchie, Famous Players veteran manager who was in charge of the Bloor, Toronto, passed away at his home in Toronto on Christmas day. He was 62 years old.

Ill several times during the past few years, he had returned to theatre activity, as well as other interests. Popular with his colleagues as well as in the trade and community, he will be missed.

Interment was in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

LOW-COST MGM PIX; REPUBLIC'S UP

A series of low-budget features will be made by MGM, a company which has always been lavish in its spending. The first film in the experiment will be "Border Incident," to be made at an estimated budget of $500,000. Shooting commences after the first of the new year.

MGM bought the scenario, by John Higgins, from Eagle Lion for $50,000 and Nicholas Nayfack will produce it on a schedule of 28 days. The star will be Ricardo Montalban.

At the same time it became known that Republic will make a group of features at $700,000 each, an increase over the usual budget. This is being done at the suggestion of Republic's distribution chief, James R. Grainger, who feels that such films will help sell the cheaper ones.

FPCC SEES RECORD '48 PROFITS

Famous Players, which with its associates operates 375 theatres in 130 Canadian communities, will likely exceed its 1947 profits in 1948 and looks forward to 1949 as its most promising year. Although attendance declined in 1947, raised admissions and additional theatres kept profits up.

Despite the company having built 15 new theatres in 1948, as well as modernizing many and acquiring controlling interest in others, it did not resort to borrowings of any kind.

The new theatres brought the number of units added in 1948 to 21. During the year the company purchased control of the three drive-ins of Skyway in Ontario, and a substantial interest in one operated by Starlite at Chippewa.

For the 53 weeks ended January 3rd, 1948, net earnings equaled $1.78 per share.

A GOOD BET FOR 1949 — PATHE (British) PICTURES
From INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS Limited

MGM PLANS 21 IN COMING MONTHS

16 Completed and 4 Now Shooting; 12 of 21 To Be Made To Have Color

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has scheduled 21 major properties for production during the coming months, it was announced this week.

The company now has 16 pictures completed and four before the cameras.

The new production schedule was set as a result of a decision by Nicholas M. Schenck, president; Louis B. Mayer, executive head of the studio, and Dore Schary, in charge of production. Of the 21 pictures to be shot a record total of 12—more than 50 per cent—will be in color. Ten of the 20 completed or shooting also are in color.

Of the films set for production, two will be shot abroad, "Conspirator" starring Robert Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor, in England, and "Quo Vadis," in Technicolor, in Italy. "Conspirator" is in work.

Planned Product Listed

The MGM production lineup:

FORSYTE SAGA, in Technicolor, from the John Galsworthy novel. Leon Gordon, producer; Compton Bennett, director. Starring Greer Garson and Errol Flynn.

MADAME BOVARY, from the Gustave Flaubert novel. Pandro S. Berman, producer; Vincente Minnelli, director. Starring Jennifer Jones, James Mason and Louis Jourdan.

STORM OVER VIENNA, Carey Wilson, producer; George Sidney, director. With all-star cast.

INTRUDER IN THE DUST, from the William Faulkner novel. Clarence Brown, producer-director.

GREYFRIAR'S BOBBY, in Technicolor. Robert Sisk, producer. Starring Edmund Gwenn and Lassie.

ROBINSON CRUSOE, from the Daniel Defoe novel, in Technicolor. Sam Zimbalist, producer.

EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE, from the Marcia Davenport novel. Voldemar Vetluguin, producer.

THE CHOSEN, Arthur Ripley, producer.

YOUNG BESS, in Technicolor. Sidney Franklin, producer.

ANY NUMBER CAN PLAY, Arthur Freed, producer.

VIVA ZAPATA, Jack Cummings, producer. Starring Robert Taylor.

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN, musical in Technicolor. Arthur Freed, producer. Starring Judy Garland.

GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME, musical in Technicolor. Joe Pasternak, producer, and Robert Z. Leonard, director. Starring Judy Garland.

THREE LITTLE WORDS, musical in Technicolor. Jack Cummings, producer.

MIDNIGHT KISS, musical. Joe Pasternak, producer. Norman Taurog, director. Starring Kathryn Grayson, Jose Iturbi and introducing Mario Lanza.

IT'S A DATE, musical in Technicolor. Joe Pasternak, producer.

DUCHESS OF IDAHO, musical in Technicolor. Joe Pasternak, producer. Starring Esther Williams.

BATTLEGROUND, Robert Pirosh original. Pandro S. Berman, producer. Starring Robert Taylor, Van Johnson, John Hodiak, Keenan Wynn and Ricardo Montalban.

BLACK HAND, William H. Wright, producer.

SCENE OF THE CRIME, Harry Rapf, producer.

Pictures now before the cameras at MGM include:

THE STRATTON STORY, Jack Cummins, producer, with Sam Wood directing. Starring James Stewart and June Allyson.

NEPTUNE'S DAUGHTER, musical in Technicolor. Jack Cummings, producer. Eddie Buzzell, director. Starring Esther Williams, Red Skelton, Ricardo Montalban and Keenan Wynn.

THE GREAT SINNER, Gottfried Reinhardt, producer. Robert Siodmak, director. Starring Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner.

THE SECRET GARDEN, partly in Technicolor. Clarence Brown, producer. Fred Wilcox, director. Starring Margaret O'Brien and Dean Stockwell.

Set for Release

Productions set for release in the coming months include:

THE THREE MUSKETEERS, in Technicolor. Pandro S. Berman, producer. George Sidney, director. Starring Lana Turner, Gene Kelly, June Allyson and Van Heflin.

WORDS AND MUSIC, musical in Technicolor. Arthur Freed, producer. Norman Taurog, director. Starring June Allyson, Perry Como, Judy Garland, Lena Horne, Gene Kelly, Mickey Rooney and Ann Sothern.

COMMAND DECISION, Sidney Franklin-Gottfried Reinhardt co-production. Sam Wood, director. Starring Clark Gable, Walter Pidgeon, Van Johnson and Brian Donlevy.

LITTLE WOMEN, in Technicolor. Mervyn LeRoy, producer-director. Starring June Allyson, Peter Lawford, Margaret O'Brien, Elizabeth Taylor, Janet Leigh, Rossano Brazzi and Mary Astor.

THE BARKLEYS OF BROADWAY, musical in Technicolor. Arthur Freed, producer. Charles Walters, director. Starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

EDWARD, MY SON, filmed in England. Edwin Knopf, producer. George Cukor, director. Starring Spencer Tracy and Deborah Kerr.

HILLS OF HOME, in Technicolor. Robert Sisk, producer, Fred Wilcox, director. Starring Edmund Gwenn, Tom Drake, Donald Crisp, Janet Leigh and Lassie.

THE KISSING BANDIT, musical in Technicolor. Joe Pasternak, producer, Laslo Benedek, director. Starring Frank Sinatra and Kathryn Grayson.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME, musical in Technicolor. Arthur Freed, producer. Busby Berkeley, director. Starring Frank Sinatra, Esther Williams and Gene Kelly.

THE BRIBE, Pandro S. Berman, producer. Robert Z. Leonard, director. Starring Robert Taylor, Ava Gardner, Charles Laughton, Vincent Price and John Hodiak.

THE SUN COMES UP, in Technicolor. Robert Sisk, poducer. Richard Thorpe directing. Starring Jeannette MacDonald, Lloyd Nolan, Claude Jarman, Jr., and Lassie.

ACT OF VIOLENCE, William H. Wright producer. Fred Zinnemann, director. Starring Van Heflin and Robert Ryan.

THREE GODFATHERS, in Technicolor. An Argosy production directed by John Ford. Starring John Wayne and Pedro Armendariz.

NO MINOR VICES, Enterprise production. Lewis Milestone, producer-director. Starring Dana Andrews, Lilli Palmer and Louis Jourdan.

FORCE OF EVIL, Enterprise production. Bob Roberts, producer. Abraham Polonsky, director. starring John Garfield.

BIG JACK, produced by Gottfried Reinhardt. Richard Thorpe, director. Starring Wallace Beery and Richard Conte.

CUT YOURSELF A SLICE OF SECURITY!

As usual, the Leader sets the pace with optimism and daring. Millions for production and prosperity, but not one cent for gloom! M-G-M's product announcement has electrified the industry. Your future's sound when your theatre rests on the solid foundation of M-G-M!

THIS REPORT APPEARED PROMINENTLY IN EVERY TRADE PAPER NATIONWIDE!

Three Theatres Added To Total

(Continued from Page 1)

Work got under way for a new theatre in BC and a date was set for the opening of a second, while plans were reported for a third. A new project was announced in Alberta.

In Port Arthur, Ontario, Famous Players opened its 1,000-seat, $200,000 theatre, its third unit in that city, the other two being the 1,000-seat Colonial and the 700-seat Lyceum. One other house is being operated there, that being the 756-seat Odeon-Port Arthur, which was opened a couple of weeks ago by Odeon Theatres in a double ceremony with the new Odeon-Fort William.

The second theatre to open in Ontario was the 735-seat Park Theatre in Cobourg built by Premier Operating and Mrs. H. J. Sutherland. Premier also runs Cobourg's only other theatre, the 519-seat Capitol.

February 1st was set as the opening date for 535-seat Odeon Theatre being built in Ingersoll, Ontario, by S. O. Axelrod and Odeon Theatres. At present the only theatre in operation there is Theatre Holding's 448-seat Maitland.

Last item in the Ontario round-up was the announcement that work had started on the 800-seat, $75,000 structure for Odeon Theatres in Stratford. Theatre Holding owns the 1,161-seat Avon and the 512-seat Classic, that community's two houses.

Quebec's contribution to the building news was the opening of France-Film's de luxe Cinema de Paris in Quebec City. Erected to replace the Theatre Canadien which was destroyed by fire, the house cost approximately $400,000, seats 1,300 and is exclusively for French-language films.

Suburban Theatres Limited, an Odeon affiliate, has started tearing down the old Fraser Theatre in Vancouver, on which site will be erected an 840-seat structure costing some $90,000, exclusive of interior equipment. In Duncan, BC, where Odeon operates the only theatre, the 449-seat Capitol, February has been set as the tentative opening date for the 608-seat enterprise being built by local capital. S. Obrenko and K. Samol have announced plans for the building of the first theatre in Enderby, BC, having already purchased the site.

A. S. Kerr, a member of the council of Stettler, Alberta, has purchased two adjoining lots in the community and will erect a theatre for which plans are in readiness. C. W. Annable's 427-seat Roxy is the only theatre operating there at present.

Films Panned Plenty Over CBC Chain

(Continued from Page 1)

pretty lurid stuff has been voiced about films over the CBC, the most recent instance being the "Let's Go to the Movies" program of the National Farm Radio Forum.

For a long time now Clyde Gilmour has been looking at almost every film that shows up in Vancouver and jeering at most of them. In Toronto Gerald Pratley writes a program spoken by John Rae. Both programs are aired on Sunday.

Gilmour, a Vancouver newspaperman, goes in for sarcastic humor along with his celluloid assaying. Sometimes, he wrote recently in Maclean's, he sees a dozen films per week. Film trade people can't understand why he bothers looking at fillers, unless it is to provide him with ideas for humorous comment. In that case, they contend, he is a humorist rather than a film critic.

For a long time Gilmour had his own program. More than a month ago the CBC worked out a program called "Critically Yours." This takes a half hour and ten minutes each is devoted to films, radio and books. Gilmour reviews films and on one program Graham McInnis examined radio while Lister Sinclair discussed a book.

McInnis and Sinclair picked out efforts which they considered worthwhile to talk about, ignoring the poorer stuff, but Gilmour went through the same routine of using what he considered to be bad pictures for his material. People in the industry felt that Gilmour, being a weekly critic, should devote his limited time on the air to guiding listeners to good films.

The Pratley-Rae program, while the more intelligent effort, occasionally makes film folk wonder just what the CBC considers to be the function of a critic. They agree that film criticism is a valid form of activity but a recent Pratley-Rae program severely lashed the advertising of "Johnny Belinda" and they're not sure that such matters are in the province of the film reviewer.

Some very nasty things about Hollywood pictures were said by Orlo Miller of London, Ontario, over the National Farm Forum program; in which the other participants were H. B. Chandler of Charlottetown, PEI, and Charles Lawson, Langley, BC. Fergus Mutrie was the chairman.

They agreed that the National Film Board and the network of film councils it inspired are doing great work. But Hollywood films took a beating from Miller, described as an author and radio dramatist. Miller said that Hollywood films had a hypnotic influence and when asked whether that wasn't putting it strongly, replied:

"No . . . the next time you go to a movie take a look around at your neighbors . . . slack jaws . . . open mouths . . . staring eyes . . . obvious proofs of the hypnotic effect caused by the passage of hundreds of frames of film across the screen . . . the constant flickering . . ." This, he said further, applied in all cases.

He won support for his statement that Canadian newsreels were filled with American propaganda. "Press and radio are obliged by public opinion to present the news in more unbiased and impartial manner, whereas no such restrictions apply to the newsreel," Miller said. (This statement is not correct. In Ontario 25 per cent of newsreel shots must be of Empire content and these reels are shown in every province.)

Each of the participants joined in the discussion of "block booking" and "blind buying," through which managers "are obliged to take films that are alloted to them." A manager, said Chandler, "is compelled to show 80 or 90 per cent second or third rate films in order to get the few good ones. It's just a matter of commercialism all the way through, and the theatre audience gets value for its money about once in ten times . . . and the rest of the time are definitely cheated."

Miller said that "a theatre which attempts to show only good films would be open about six months of the year." He then described "blind booking" as "the same as a pig in a poke."

The motion picture industry, used to criticism, will probably not take issue with individuals or the CBC. It does not object to being examined. But radio could stand self-examination to the same degree and literature and the press should be inviting fields for the critics. Yet the films seem to attract most of their time and attention. Even on the non-government radio there are disc jockeys, etc. who feel that film panning is a legitimate part of their activities.

'The Movies And You'

"The Movies and You" has been selected as the title of the all-industry series of the Motion Picture Industry Film Project Committee.

Roly Young, 45, Passes Suddenly

(Continued from Page 1)

his unexpected death shocked the Canadian motion picture industry as well as Toronto newspaper readers. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Eva F. Young of Toronto.

Funeral services took place in the chapel of A. W. Miles on Tuesday, December 28th.

Rowland Young was born in Sain John, NB, his early education was received in Toronto and he later studied law at Dalhousie University. In Halifax he took part in amateur dramatics, studied singing there and in New York. In the latter city he was a soloist in The Little Church Around the Corner and after touring the United States with a Gilbert & Sullivan company for a couple of seasons, returned to Halifax in 1927.

In 1928 he joined the Toronto Star as a reporter, then switched over to theatricals. He later joined the Mail & Empire, bringing "Rambling with Roly," his column along and kept right on writing it after the Globe bought the Mail & Empire and joined them as the Globe & Mail.

Several months ago Roly became the drama editor of the paper, a post which he added to his movie chores. These tasks, along with the time needed to travel between the office and his home on the banks of Rouge River, at the eastern outskirts of the city kept him busy:

He was a member of the Variety Club of Toronto.

Warners Buy Novel

"Gay Deception," a romantic comedy by Jules Furthman and John Klorer, has been purchased by Warner Brothers.

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Are you UP-TO-DATE on the LATEST news about the comedy smash that Look Magazine calls "the FUNNIEST of 1948-model movies"? Do YOU realize that..

HERE'S THE 19-CITY PROOF BASED ON ITS MOST RECENT ENGAGEMENTS—

Its Thanksgiving business topped Labor Day grosses of Paramount's biggest non-musical summer hit in Oklahoma City, Tucson, Poughkeepsie and Jacksonville.

Its Thanksgiving business topped Labor Day grosses of another top Paramount summer show by 30% in Worcester, 20% in St. Paul and by wide margins in Hartford, New Haven, Sioux Falls, Milwaukee, Springfield.

Its amazing non-holiday week gross in Portland, Oregon, topped the Labor Day week business of Hit No. 1 mentioned above.

Its first 2 days (non-holiday) in Marion, O. topped Hit No. 2 by 30%.

It played to the biggest Paramount business of the entire year in Salt Lake City—with the exception of "The Emperor Waltz" and "Unconquered."

"Mi$$ Tatlock$ Million$"

is one of the 2 Biggest Paramount hits since "The Emperor Waltz"!

Its first week in Denver was **40% over average gross** of the past 3 months, its second week 8% over first week and it's holding for a third stanza.

And it's **making holdover and move-over history** in city after city—including Buffalo, Boston, Hartford, Oakland, Springfield, Milwaukee, Oklahoma City and Newark.

JOHN LUND
WANDA HENDRIX
BARRY FITZGERALD
MONTY WOOLLEY
in
"Mi$$ Tatlock$ Million$"
with
ILKA CHASE ROBERT STACK
DOROTHY STICKNEY ELIZABETH PATTERSON
Produced by CHARLES BRACKETT Directed by RICHARD HAYDN
Screenplay by Charles Brackett and Richard L. Breen

"Tatlock" outgrosses every Paramount Picture played in Boise, Idaho, during 1948 including "The Emperor Waltz." And its first 4 days were 10% ahead of "Road to Rio" which included the Christmas Day gross.

No Harm In Movies Six Experts Find

By a six-to-one vote a board of experts declared that motion pictures would not contribute to juvenile delinquency if parents did the job they should. Organized by the John Howland Parent-Teacher Association of Providence, Rhode Island, the panel included comic books and radio in the statement. On the committee were a librarian, a representative of a comic book publisher, a visual education expert, a pediatrician, a child psychologist and a radio station expert.

More than 400 parents heard Dr. Herman Marks, pediatrician at the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital in East Providence and one of the experts, declare flatly: "I do not know a single child, who was all right to begin with, who was harmed in any way by reading the comics or attending the movies."

Broderick Crawford Cast In Key Role

The search for the right actor to play the all-important key role of Willie Stark in Columbia's "All the King's Men," has ended with the choice of Broderick Crawford for the part by Robert Rossen, producer.

At the time the studio purchased the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Robert Penn Warren, Rossen was deluged with "type" stars eager for the role of the dynamic governor who held an entire state and its people in the hollow of his hand.

'Tender Is The Night' Sold By SRO To MGM

Screen rights to F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, "Tender Is the Night," has been bought by MGM from David O. Selznick as a prospective vehicle for Jennifer Jones. Selznick, who has owned rights to the 1934 novel since 1946, included a screen adaptation by David Hertz in the deal.

Hollywood EL Sets Foreign Film Deal

A distribution and production deal has been signed by Eagle Lion (Hollywood) Films with Gamma Films of Lausanne, Switzerland, and Gestion et Participation Trust de Vaduz, Lichtenstein. The five-year pact calls for the two European companies to distribute Eagle Lion product in Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Spain beginning with the 1947-48 releases on a guarantee and percentage participation basis.

Deal also provides for joint production by Eagle Lion and Gamma in France and Austria. Both companies will make one picture per year in each country.

Typodermic Injections

A million-dollar legitimate theatre is being erected in Pittsburgh. Toronto could certainly use a new house for drama and musical comedy . . . **Doug Rosen,** UA's popular Toronto branch manager, is at home getting over an operation at the General Hospital . . . **DOS will arrange** to use a 40x60 Cycloramic screen for the storm scene in "Portrait for Jenny." It's not a new idea but hasn't been tried recently . . . **Revised version** of "For Whom the Bell Tolls" is being played in Britain. I'll bet the re-edited film does sensationally at Canadian boxoffices if released here.

Tom Walton Jr., who operates the Eclipse, now has the Forum, formerly the Hudson . . . **"I read about** films in pumpkin heads," a friend said, "but what about pumpkin heads in films?" . . . **It's an 8lb.-1 oz.** bundle named Joan Louise at the Jay Smiths. Jay, prexy of Alliance Films, told me that Jean had queried the doctor: "Will it be a boy or a girl?" The doctor answered: "Yes, it will be a boy or a girl." That's touching all the bases.

Lorne Greene's great words helped warm the hearts of his fellow-barkers at the Variety Village ceremonies . . . **Heard about a little boy** whom a policeman noticed walking around and around the block. Asked why, the moppet explained that he was running away from home. But why was he circling the block so often? "I'm not allowed to cross the street," the boy explained . . . **The article** about the Canadian Co-op Project by Charlie Lazarus in the NY Times was reprinted in a number of Canadian newspapers, indicating the growing curiosity. Isn't it time for a public statement?

Harry Allen, head of Cardinal Films, was in the hospital for a couple of weeks and was overwhelmed at the number of persons who showed concern by wire, letter, phone calls, books, flowers, fruit, etc. He sure is grateful. Harry is back at his desk now . . . **May I repeat** my crack that housewives shouldn't mind margarine. Didn't they marry for butter or for worse?

Overheard some women gossiping about a certain social-climbing couple. "When they arrive at a party," one she-serpent said, "they study the guests for important people. They divide these people between them, then they separate and go from one to the other."

* * *

Roly Young Left His Mark

Along with the rest of the movie journalists, I'll miss Roly Young. Roly's column had a pungent style and his opinions about pictures helped create many an ulcer. He had a provocative way of letting the public know that he didn't like a film. Among his pet hates were Shirley Temple as a kid, phoney press agents and writers of anonymous letters. Once he and I squared off in print, took a swipe at each other and then let things fade out amicably.

In his own way Roly was quite a person. He loved the stage and only lately added the task of drama criticism to his chores. Sometimes it seemed that Roly didn't like the movies for what they had done to his beloved drama. In his time he acted, wrote, produced and directed for the living theatre. His local efforts to keep the theatre alive are apparent on several sides.

Perhaps his early death will help people to realize what Edna Ferber wrote in her autoblography—that a writer works harder than a truck driver. He is given a place in the community not ordinarily held by people with his comparatively limited earning power. But sometimes it is depressing to be unable to afford things that go with being a cultured person, while having to observe money being wasted by well-healed ignoramuses who are paid big salaries for performing tasks requiring less skill and intelligence.

To a writer these things are all in a lifetime. Even a lifetime as short as that of Roly Young. But no one can deny that Roly did a great deal to the arts in the country and community in which he lived.

Frederic Ullman, Jr. Dies In Hollywood

Frederic Ullman, Jr., 45, motion picture producer, died recently at his home in Beverly Hills of a heart attack.

Born in Buffalo he entered the film business on his graduation from Yale in 1925. In the first five years he managed a Buffalo chain of theatres, joining Pathe in 1931 as head of the commercial department and became vice-president and general manager in 1937. From 1942 to its sale in 1947, he was head of Pathe News then becoming a producer for RKO. He made the famous This Is America series and recently completed his first full-length film, "The Window."

He was also named head of the RKO Television Corporation on its formation in June, 1944, holding that position for three years. He was a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Art and Sciences and the Yale Club of New York.

UA Will Offer Two Foreign Films Here

The French-made "Passionelle" and the Swedish film, "Torment," will be distributed in Canada by United Artists, it was stated recently by Charles Chaplin, general manager for the Dominion. The films have been a strong boxoffice attraction in the USA.

New Novel Acquired

King Brothers have acquired Ogden J. Wertekle's "Ramie."

Orson Welles Signed For 'The Third Man'

Orson Welles has been signed by Carol Reed, producer-director, for a starring role in "The Third Man," filming of which began recently on location in Vienna.

Joseph Cotten and another Selznick star, Valli, also are starred in "The Third Man," which was authored by best-selling novelist, Graham Greene. It is the first of a series of films to be produced in Europe jointly by David O. Selznick and Sir Alexander Korda.

'Wildcatters' Bought By Jack Wrather

Producer Jack Wrather has purchased "Wildcatters," an original by Arthur Hamm, and has scheduled it for production next Spring.

No release for the picture has been set by Wrather, who is now negotiating with several major film companies. Story, like his recently completed "Strike It Rich" made for Allied Artists, will be based on the oil industry in which he made his millions in Texas.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 14, No. 1 | REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK | $2.00 Per Annum

The Three Musketeers

with Lana Turner, Gene Kelly, June Allyson, Van Heflin

MGM (Technicolor) 125 Mins.

A SOUND, WELL MADE ENTERTAINMENT REPLETE WITH NAMES, REPUTATION. SHOULD RAKE BETTER THAN AVERAGE GROSSES.

Fourth time around for the Dumas classic, this newest detailing of the adventures of the garcon from Gascony is bright and polished, studded with a great deal of swashbuckle, acrobatics, swordplay and even whitewash. In flamboyant Technicolor it measures up a sound entertainment replete with lovely women to look at, action aplenty and skillful direction and production.

Robert Adrey's screenplay retains the full flavor of the King Louis XII period when Cardinal Richelieu held sway over France and matched wits not only with the monarch but also with his men-at-arms who gave him a merry time all the way. Assisted by the beauteous Lady de Winter —Lana—Vincent Price schemes and plots in the right style and Gene Kelly as D'Artagnan pulls one nifty after another out of his bag of tricks to eventually outwit the connivers, set Richelieu considerably aback and eventually cause the beheading of Miss Turner.

It is a field day for Kelly. He indulges in intricate and at the same time highly flown maneuvers with his blade. Being a dancer, he gracefully gives his part every bit of what it demands.

Perhaps "The Three Musketeers" will be fondly remembered by the audience that can recall Dougas Fairbanks, the elder, in the lead role. But a new generation will also be enthralled by the pageantry and adventure of the Dumas tale.

Adroitly handled as historical fiction, the story has a sound boxoffice potential and should rake in better than average grosses.

Aside from its reputation as familiar drama, this new version also has a considerable assist in the collection of star names featured.

CAST: Lana Turner, Gene Kelly, June Allyson, Van Heflin, Angela Lansbury, Frank Morgan, Vincent Price, Keenan Wynn.

CREDITS: Producer, Pandro S. Berman; Director, George Sidney; Screenplay, Robert Ardrey; Photography, Robert Planck; Cedric Gibbons, Malcolm Brown.

DIRECTION: Very Good. PHOTOGRAPHY: Fine.

A Song Is Born

with Danny Kaye, Virginia Mayo

RKO-Goldwyn (Technicolor) 113 Mins.

THE GREATEST JAM SESSION OF THEM ALL SENDS THIS ONE; KAYE IS SPOTTED AS A COMIC; MUSICALLY, IN THE MODERN MANNER, THE SHOW STANDS SOLID, SWELL ENTERTAINMENT.

A couple of million dollars worth of musical talent alone is luxuriantly displayed about Danny Kaye as he cavorts through this comedy wherein he does not revert to his usual style of comic song delivery for further effect. The tunesmiths range the full gamut of modern musical endeavor—you name it, they play it—the devotees of the cult will be sent, but sent. That's def.

Goldwyn has given the musical proportion of the show an extravagant treatment and it is brought home with fine skill and achieves the status of provocative entertainment. Glance at the credits and cast below. They are topmost in each division.

It contains easily what might be considered the greater array of horn tooters, piano players, drummers, singers, characters and the like, including a Goodman, named Benny, masquerading as a musicologist behind a mustache. When they are in the groove and bounce and have a tremendous "sesh" they are vastly entertaining. It was smart showmanship to spot their various talents throughout the script and call them by their real names in all but one case.

It is a very hep yarn that engages Kaye and Virginia Mayo. Strewn here and there are bits and snatches of dialogue that are brittle and spicy. Howard Hawks' direction secured some fresh slants and they register.

Headman at the "Totten Music Institute," Kaye, surrounded by six worthies, including Goodman, is engaged in making a encyclopedia of classical music, in print and recorded. The intrusion of Buck and Bubbles with musical questions and their demonstration on the Steinway sets the profs to thinking seriously about their job in the light of modern tastes. To this end Kayo goes afield for research in the swing dens and bistros.

In short order he encounters in person the complete blue book of the trade and Virginia Mayo, torch singer in a nitery. He invites all and sundry, plus instruments to the Institute. First to show up is Miss Mayo, on the lam from the cops who want her so they can put the cuff on Steve Cochran, her boyfriend, wanted for a murder.

She installs herself in the bachelor domicile the same night and from then on the comedy structure is built up a la boy and girl to a point where Kaye buys her an engagement ring and declares he wants to marry her.

But Cochran has been busy in New Jersey, too. While Kaye was recording musical history, tracing the pattern of jazz from the Congo to 52nd Street, he was making plans for Miss Mayo.

There is a final wall-shaking jam session which turns the trick for Kaye and Miss Mayo. It really sends everybody; Kaye into Miss Mayo's arms, Cochran to the jug.

CAST: Danny Kaye, Virginia Mayo, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Charlie Barnet, Buck & Bubbles, Golden Gate Quartet, Tommy Dorsey, Lionel Hampton, Mel Powell, Page Cavanaugh Trio, Russo & Samba Kings, Hugh Herbert, J. Edward Bromberg, Ludwig Stossel, Steve Cochran, Felix Bressart, O. Z. Whitehead, Esther Dale, Mary Field, Sidney Blackmer, Howland Chamberlin, Paul Langton, Ben Weldon, Ben Chasen, Peter Virgo, Harry Babasin, Louis Bellson, Alton Hendrickson.

CREDITS: Producer, Samuel Goldwyn; Director, Howard Hawks; Photography, Gregg Toland; Based on the story, "From A to Z," by Thomas Monroe, Billy Wilder; Orchestrations, Sonny Burke; Musical direction, Emil Newman, Hugho Friedhofer; Art, George Jenkins, Perry Ferguson; Editor, Daniel Mandell; Sets, Julia Heron; Sound, Fred Lau.

DIRECTION: Able PHOTOGRAPHY: Good.

The Countess of Monte Cristo

with Sonja Henie, Olgan San Juan

Empire-Universal 77 Mins.

ICE SKATING AND PRODUCTION NUMBERS FEATURING MISS HENIE TIP THE BALANCE IN FAVOR OF THIS ONE AS ENTERTAINMENT.

When the accomplished Sonja is applying steel to ice and Edward Cronjager's camera is smartly following her all over the rink this budget item is good entertainment. When it lapses into its story it is something else again. But there is enough skating in the production numbers to favorably tip the balance. The audience that has missed the skating of Miss Henie these few years will see her again in top form.

What serves as the story framework for the frosty doings is a fairly worn out old plot wherein a pair of young girls — the Misses Henie and San Juan —a couple of barmaids in Oslo, decide to give up beer for champagne and try their talents in Norwegian films. They flop — literally and physically. Then Miss Henie decides to swipe a de luxe convertible, beat it over the border and once across pose as the "Countess of Monte Cristo" at Arthur Treacher's hotel.

Not only does girl meet boy but she also meets crook and after demonstrating her prowess on the ice she interests a film producer and so to matrimony. Aside from the skating pattern the yarn runs true to form via cut and dried situations, dialogue, etc. There are a couple of songs, too.

CAST: Sonja Henie, Olgan San Juan, Dorothy Hart, Michael Kirby, Arthur Treacher, Hugh French, Ransom Sherman.

CREDITS: A Westwood Corp. Picture: Producer, John Beck; Director, Frederick De Cordova; Screenplay, William Bowers; Story, Walter Reisch; Photography, Edward Cronjager.

DIRECTION: Adequate. PHOTOGRAPHY: Good.

Joan Crawford Pic

Joan Crawford's first independent production, "Miss O'Brien," will be made at Columbia.

Florence Marly Cast

Florence Marly has been cast in the feminine lead in Columbia's "Tokyo Joe."

'White Heat' Bought

Warner Bros. announced the acquisition of "White Heat," a crime documentary by Virginia Kellogg, which has been assigned to Lou Edelman to produce for the studio.

Ivan Goff and Ben Roberts will write the screenplay.

Canadian Film Weekly

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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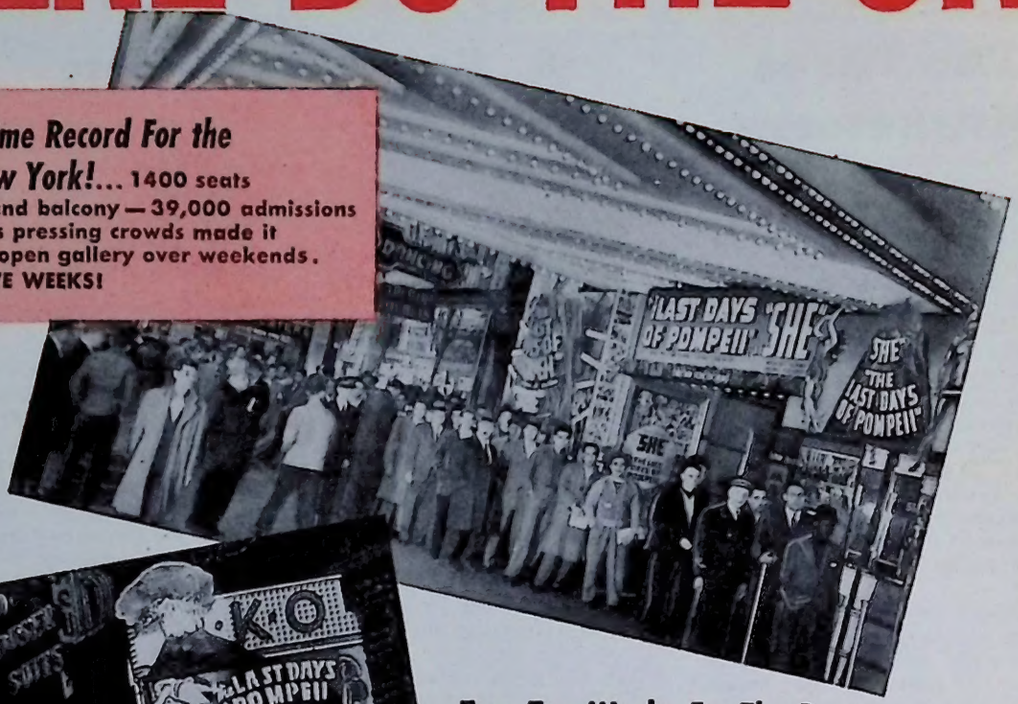
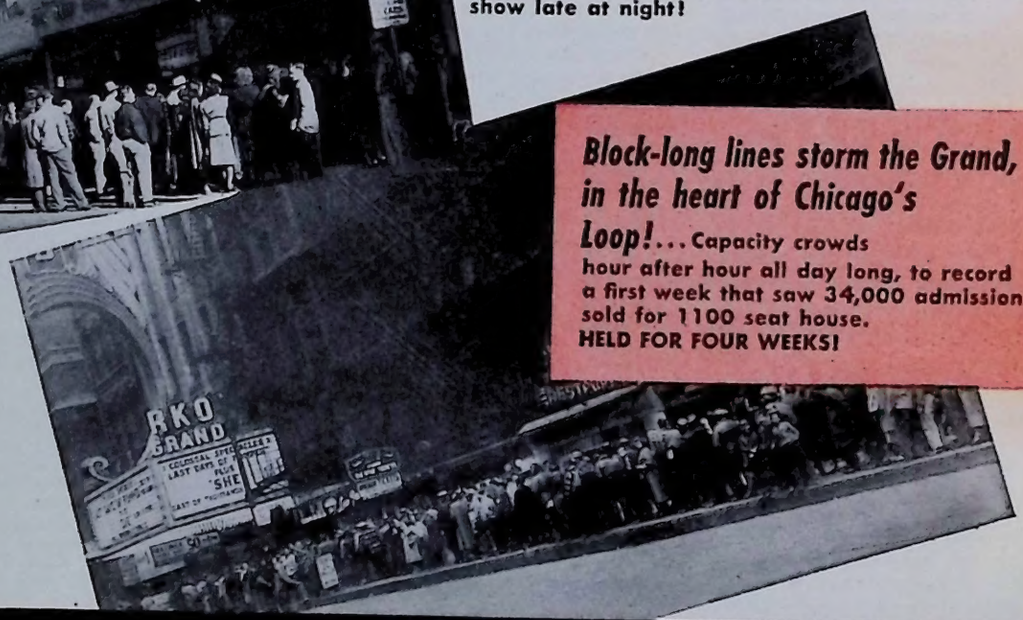


Near All-Time Record For the Palace, New York!... 1400 seats main floor, and balcony — 39,000 admissions first week, as pressing crowds made it necessary to open gallery over weekends. **HELD FOR FIVE WEEKS!**

Two Top Weeks For The Boston, Boston... with eager boxoffice lines stretching 'way around the corner from first show early in morning to last show late at night!



Block-long lines storm the Grand, in the heart of Chicago's Loop!... Capacity crowds hour after hour all day long, to record a first week that saw 34,000 admissions sold for 1100 seat house. **HELD FOR FOUR WEEKS!**

"THE LAST DAYS OF PO

Both **MERIAN C. COOPER PRODUCTIONS**

WDS COME FROM?

A great, big, sensational box-office bonanza has dropped right out of the sky into the lap of a show business reeling with amazement at the figures being rolled up!

. . . It's RKO's astounding double-header spectacle and action show—a combination bill that *OUTGROSSED TOP FIRST-RUN PICTURES ON BROADWAY, IN THE LOOP AND DOWNTOWN BOSTON!*

So sensational are the returns that "The Showmanship Company" is turning its staff upside down to get it to you in a hurry!...

Contact your nearest RKO Exchange for availability of the biggest quick-money chance you've had in recent show history!

Flash ads like this helped do the job! . . . You get new prints . . . new COMBINATION accessories, including spectacular posters, exciting newspaper ads and colorful lobby displays!

ONLY SHOWING IN NEW YORK
RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47 ST.
THE LAST DAYS OF A CITY OF EVIL!
Pompeii . . . proud and mighty until one man's lust for power was paid off with violent death!
NEVER BEFORE!
. . TWO Such Mighty, Spectacular Screen Triumphs On One Wonder Show!
STARTS TOMORROW
DOORS OPEN 8:30 A.M.
YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL FOR 500 YEARS!
—and wicked every one of them!
"THE LAST DAYS of POMPEII"
PRESTON FOSTER • BASIL RATHBONE • ALAN HALE
LOUIS CALHERN • DOROTHY WILSON
SEE!
PAGAN REVELS! . . . BEAUTY FOR SALE! . . . DEADLY ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS! . . . ARENA OF DEATH! . . . LUST-MAD MOBS! . . . DANCING SLAVE GIRLS! . . . SEA OF DEATH! . . .
PLUS
H. RIDER HAGGARD'S
"SHE"
RANDOLPH SCOTT • HELEN MACK
NIGEL BRUCE • HELEN GAHAGAN
SEE!
HUMAN SACRIFICE! . . . LAKE OF FIRE! . . . FLAME OF ETERNAL LIFE! . . . FABULOUS KINGDOM OF KOR! . . . THE MYSTERY WORLD! . . . MEN ENSLAVED BY BARBARIC QUEEN! . . . THE FLOOD OF DOOM!
1,001 SCENES THAT STAGGER THE IMAGINATION!
ONLY SHOWING IN NEW YORK
RKO PALACE B'WAY AND 47th ST.
STARTS TODAY
DOORS OPEN 9:30 A.M.
of 10,000!
"THE LAST DAYS of POMPEII"
and
ONLY SHOWING IN NEW YORK
PALACE
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MPEII" and H. RIDER HAGGARD'S "SHE"

WRITING NEW BOXOFFICE HISTORY!

Board Of Review Picks Best Ten

An Italian film which has not yet played in Canada, "Paisan," produced and directed by Roberto Rosselini, was voted the best picture of 1948 in the 23rd annual poll of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, an USA organization composed of members of women's clubs. Five of its best ten were foreign films.

The next nine films in order of preference as named by the board's Committee on Exceptional Motion Pictures are "Day of Wrath," Danish-made period drama directed by Carl Dreyer; "The Search," topical drama about displaced European children with a European and American cast and released by MGM; "Treasure of Sierra Madre," Warner Brothers' drama adapted and directed by John Huston; and "Louisiana Story," Robert Flaherty's documentary about oil prospecting and life in the bayou country.

Also "Hamlet," Sir Laurence Olivier's British-made version of the Shakespeare classic, produced and directed by and starring Olivier; "The Snake Pit," 20th Century-Fox dramatization of the Mary Jane Ward novel, directed by Anatole Litvak and starring Olivia de Havilland; "Johnny Belinda," Warner's drama starring Jane Wyman as a mute; "Joan of Arc," Sierra production, with Ingrid Bergman as the French saint, directed by Victor Fleming and produced by Walter Wanger; and "The Red Shoes," British-made romantic drama centering around the ballet.

The 300 members of the Board's Review Committee chose the following films as "the ten best of the year on the basis of entertainment:" "Hamlet," "The Search," "Sitting Pretty," "Gentleman's Agreement," "Johnny Belinda," "Joan of Arc," "I Remember Mama," "The Bishop's Wife," "The Red Shoes" and "The Snake Pit."

Walter Huston's performance in "Treasure of Sierra Madre" was judged the year's best by an actor, while Olivia de Havilland's portrayal in "The Snake Pit" took the distaff honors. Mr. Rosselini's direction of "Paisan" was voted best in that field, while John Huston was named the year's top scenarist for his work on "Treasure of Sierra Madre."

Bing Crosby Film

Bing Crosby will star in a remake of "Broadway Bill," Mark Hellinger's famed story of a racehorse first filmed by Columbia in 1934, at Paramount. Latter company has purchased the screen rights. Frank Capra will direct.

Variety Praised For Guidance Project

(Continued from Page 1)

crippled Children of Canada," he said. Drew, the leader of the Progressive-Conservative party, had been introduced by John J. Fitzgibbons, chief barker of Tent 28, Toronto, Variety International, which was responsible for the project.

Also introduced by the chief barker were Lt.-Col. Father Cherrier; the Rev. Mr. Johnston; Rabbi A. L. Feinberg; E. C. Steele, president of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children; the Hon. G. H. Doucett, Minister of Highways; and Premier T. L. Kennedy of Ontario. When the stone was laid Drew was presented with the trowel, a sterling silver one, by Fitzgibbons.

A copper box containing stamps, currency, Variety records and current periodicals and a print of ASN's "Canadian Headlines of 1948" were placed in the stone by Morris Stein, chairman of the Heart Committee.

The event was recorded for broadcasting later that day, which was the 21st of December, and the late Peter Campbell, former president of the Toronto Baseball Club, was honored by several of the speakers in the course of their remarks.

The several hundred members and guests who braved the weather felt as Barker Lorne Greene, who covered the scene for CBL. "I'm speaking to you as a member of the Variety Club and what we are doing this afternoon that makes us all so proud to be part of this organization you will hear and understand in just a few moments.

"But right now may I present all of you there in the listening audience with complimentary membership tickets for this special occasion, and through the magic of radio and your imagination allow me to transport you to where we are gathered, at this junction of Kingston Road and the Danforth, on the outskirts of Toronto.

"It's raining, it's slushy, it's miserable as far as the weather goes, but the warm proud glow in our hearts has brought many members of Variety, despite the weather, to witness a stirring ceremony—the laying of a cornerstone. Usually that's a pretty routine affair—but you'll soon learn why this one is different."

Greene then called on the head of Variety, who introduced the speakers.

Felix Lazarus filmed the event for the Warner Pathe Canadian newsreel, while Doug Skene and Jack Banks covered it for Associated Screen News under the supervision of Jack Chisholm, Ontario head of the company and a director of Variety. Lou Turofsky shot the photos which appeared in some of the papers, while Matt Sales of the Telegram also trained his camera on the scene.

'Sin Of Abby Hunt' Para Release Title

"Sin of Abby Hunt" has been set as the new title of the Paramount picture produced as "Now And Forever,' with Claude Rains, Macdonald Carey and Wanda Hendrix in starring roles. The film was directed by Mitchell Leisen.

Public Financing For Odeon Ltd.

(Continued from Page 1)

sinking fund bonds, series A, due December 15th, 1963, at $97.25 and accrued interest to yield 4½ per cent.

Proceeds from the sale of the first mortgage bonds together with proceeds of the sale of general mortgage bonds series A, and the preference and common shares, will be used to discharge existing specific mortgages on the company's properties, and for other corporate purposes.

Odeon Limited is a wholly-owned provincial subsidiary of the Odeon Theatres Canada Limited, which is a member company of the J. Arthur Rank Organization. Odeon Limited has under construction or in actual operation ten theatres in Ontario which will form part of the nation-wide parent chain of 116 theatres. Five of these theatres are in Toronto, including the celebrated Odeon-Toronto Theatre and head office building on Carlton Street. The remaining theatres are first runs in London, Ottawa, Port Arthur, Fort William and Brantford. The total seating capacity of these ten theatres is approximately 13,500. All of these theatres have been built since the war — eight of them are already in operation, the two remaining to be opened in early 1949. Directors and chief executive officers of Odeon Limited are the same as those of the parent Canadian company and include J. Arthur Rank, chairman; The Hon. J. Earl Lawson, KC, president and managing director; Leonard W. Brockington, KC, and George W. Peters, vice-presidents; John Davis, D. C. Coleman, J. S. Duncan and H. P. Green, KC, directors. G. H. Sprague, CA, is treasurer and Alan Robinette, secretary.

MGM Ordered To Rehire Writer

The action of Hollywood producers in refusing to carry out their contracts with Hollywood writers of suspected Communist beliefs was severely criticized in the Federal District Court of Los Angeles by Judge Leon Yankwich, in whose court a jury of eight women and four men ruled that MGM must rehire Lester Cole. He was a $1,350-per-week writer when released over a year ago for refusing to answer certain questions of the House Un-American Committee, his position being that such enquiries were unconstitutional.

Judge Yankwich instructed the jury that such questions as Cole's membership in the Communist party and the legality of the House Committee's enquiry were not being judged. He instructed the jury to find categorical answers to the following questions:

1. Did Mr. Cole by his statements and conduct before the committee bring himself or tend to bring himself into "public hatred, contempt, scorn or ridicule" (as specified in the "morals clause")?

2. Did his activities "shock, insult or offend the community" or tend to?

3. Did his activities "prejudice the defendant as his employer or the motion picture industry generally"?

4. Did the studio continue to employ him for a period after the Washington hearings, thereby giving tacit sanction to his activities in Washington and in effect waiving its right to discharge him as a liability?

MGM will likely appeal. It fired Cole, it had explained, because he damaged the company's public relations by his political involvement. He is also one of the ten plaintiffs in a collective suit for $61,000,000 against the various studios which discharged them. They ask that sum as compensation for damage to their professional activities.

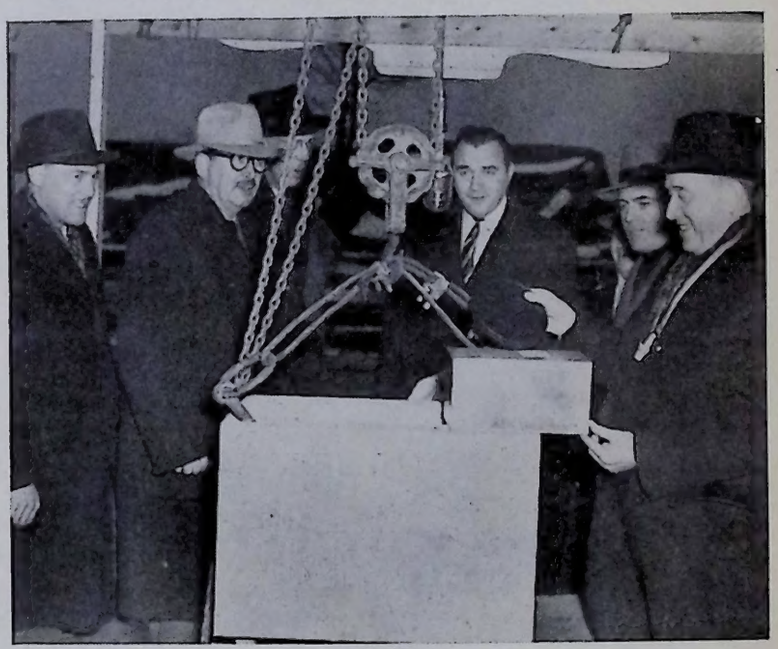
King Bros. Purchases 'The Giant Killer'

King Bros. has obtained the rights to "The Giant Killer," based on the courageous story of the late Lt. Joseph Petrosino of the New York Police Force. Lt. Petrosino was credited with breaking up the Black Hand Society, which was affiliated with the Mafia organization of Sicily.

King Bros. obtained the rights from the police officer's widow, and their story will be adapted from a treatment by Burnet Hershey.

Picture, to be filmed by Allied Artists, will be shot in New York and Italy.

Ceremonies at the Laying of the Cornerstone for Variety Village



Above photographs show the scenes at the laying of the cornerstone for Variety Village, the vocational guidance school for crippled children being built by Tent 28, Toronto, of Variety International.

Upper left depicts the Hon. George A. Drew, former Premier of Ontario and present head of the national Progressive-Conservative party, wielding the silver trowel, with Lorne Greene, "The Voice of Variety," describing the details over the CBC mike in the centre background and John J. Fitzgibbons, chief barker of Tent 28, at the right.

Upper right: In the back, from the left, are Conn Smythe, president of Maple Leaf Gardens and a barker whose hockey games helped make Variety Village possible; Eddie Drew and his dad, the Hon. George Drew; and J. Maitland MacIntosh, vice-president of the Toronto Maple Leaf Baseball Club, which assisted the Heart Fund greatly. In front are some of the crippled kids who will benefit by the project.

Lower left is a general view of the barkers and friends who assembled to watch the ceremonies.

Lower right, from the left, shows Doug Skene and Jack Chisholm, both of Associated Screen News; Lorne Greene; Hye Bossin, Canadian Film Weekly; and John J. Fitzgibbons placing the sealed box, containing Variety data, current periodicals and a print of ASN's "Canadian Headlines of 1948," in the cornerstone.

Jay Dratler Signed

Jay Dratler has been signed to a producer-writer contract by Warner Brothers and his initial assignment will be to produce "The Miami Story," based on his own melodrama.

Bogeaus Starts Film

Benedict Bogeaus, Independent producer, has started work at General Service Studios on his first film after eight months of inactivity caused by the tightened financial situation.

RKO Buys Rights

RKO has acquired screen rights to John Weaver's magazine story, "The Man Who Played Santa Claus," and has assigned Don Hartman to produce. Picture will start early this year.

MGM Buys 'Plague'

MGM recently purchased "The Plague," a novel by Albert Camus, which will be directed by Richard Brooks as his first assignment behind the megaphone. Brooks will also do the screenplay.

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